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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/724,676	11/28/2000	Zurit Levine	2786-0238P	9311

21171 7590 07/15/2005

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EXAMINER

ALLEN, MARIANNE P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/724,676

Applicant(s)

LEVINE ET AL.

Examiner

Marianne P. Allen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,86, and 89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,86 and 89 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3, 86, and 89 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The previous rejection under 35 USC 101 for lack of patentable utility and under 35 USC 112 for the corresponding lack of enablement are withdrawn. The prior art to Hu et al., applied below, supports the assertion that SEQ ID NO: 70493 is a kinase.

Specification

The instant specification is not in compliance with the sequences rules as set forth in 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Note that the specification references only SEQ ID NOS: 1-48611 and does not reference SEQ ID NOS. 48612-97222, including elected SEQ ID NO: 70493.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 3, 86, and 89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3, 86, and 89 are confusing in referring to SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 48611. Applicant is reminded that SEQ ID NO: 70493 (an 821 amino acid sequence) was elected for examination in the response filed 10/28/02 and is the only amino acid sequence under consideration. The claims are confusing in continuing to reference the non-elected sequences and failing to make clear that the amino acid sequence encoded is that of SEQ ID NO: 70493.

Claims 3, 86, and 89 are confusing in being directed to an amino acid sequence. It appears that an isolated protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 70,493

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is the intended subject matter, particularly as “an amino acid sequence” is merely a depiction of a property or characteristic of a protein product and is not the product itself.

Clarification is requested.

Claims 3 and 86 are confusing in reciting “of an alternative splicing variant.” It is unclear what limitation this phrase is intended to impart to the claim. Which particular alternative splice variant of which particular sequence is intended? It is unclear if dependent claim 89 is properly dependent or further limiting. That is, if the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 21,882 encodes an alternative splice variant how do claims 86 and 89 differ in scope? Clarification is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 3, 86, and 89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hu et al. (1996).

Hu et al. discloses the amino acid and nucleic acid sequences for two splice variants (FL-1 and FL-2) of a human hematopoietic progenitor kinase that activates the JNK/SAPK kinase cascade. See abstract and Figure 1A. The instant SEQ ID NO: 70493 matches the sequence in Figure 1A for the FL-2 variant (see bottom of Figure 1A and legend). The sequence for the FL-2 variant matches the instant SEQ ID NO: 70493 except for four amino acids at amino acid positions 631 and 654-656.

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Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne P. Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-0712. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30 am - 1:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., can be reached on 571-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Marianne P. Allen

Marianne P. Allen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631

6/6/05

mpa